

SANTA YSABEL DISASTER/EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS NEWSLETTER

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SANTA YSABEL DISASTER/EMERG PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

The Santa Ysabel Disaster/Emergency Preparedness Committee, composed of Tribal government officials, community members, and allied agency personnel, meets regularly to discuss the community's Emergency Response Plan, Hazard Mitigation Plan, community training, and events to raise awareness and provide information on emergency response planning.



GREETINGS!

Spring is here. Along with gorgeous flowers in bloom and beautiful fields of green, we have a myriad of critters stirring from their winter lethargy. An assortment of insects, small critters, and reptiles are making their way across our bucolic countryside and onto our properties. Time to re-visit wildlife safety practices with our children, particularly precautions we need to take with that most fearsome serpent, the Western Diamondback Rattlesnake. This is also a good time to clear areas around our property of weeds, debris, and other nooks and crannies attractive to wildlife.

Helpful Web Links to Assist in Emergency Response Plan Preparations and Flood Management

San Diego County Office of Emergency Services Disaster Preparation App:

<http://www.readysandiego.org/SDEmergencyApp/?nomobileredirect=true>

American Red Cross:

<http://www.redcross.org/find-help/disaster-recovery>

County of San Diego, Ready San Diego:

<http://www.readysandiego.org/family/>

San Diego County Office of Emergency Services, Flood Preparedness:

http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/oes/disaster_preparedness/oes_jl_flooding.html#top

San Diego Humane Society:

<http://www.sdhumane.org/site/PageServer?pagename=links>

Disaster Response Kit:

<http://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>

First Aid for Insect & Snake Bites

<http://www.firstaidguide.net/insect-snake-bites/>

Rattlesnake Safety

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/News/Snake>

Tips for Dealing with the Drought

Reprinted from: San Diego County Water Authority

We are about six inches of rain shy of our normal year rainfall total. The signs of the continuing drought are all around us. Listed below are a few suggestions for dealing with the drought and saving our precious water for potential firefighting needs during the upcoming summer fire season.

10 Water Smart Tips When in Drought

1. Turn off the faucet while you brush your teeth, shave or scrub a dish. Save 2 gallons per minute. No matter how mesmerizing it is to watch water go down the drain while brushing your teeth, it's not worth the cost! Save that precious resource for the moments you actually need it. When shaving, you can use a bowl with a small amount of water to rinse your razor between swipes. For washing dishes, just turn off the faucet while you scrub. These small habits make a big difference in water efficiency.
2. Take a shorter shower and collect water for plants while the water is warming up. Save 2.5 gallons per minute. You don't have to tough it out like a Navy SEAL in an icy shower to make the most of your shower water. You can catch the cold water in a bucket until you're ready to get in. Then use that captured water for watering plants, or even cleaning (like mopping).
3. Scrape food waste from dishes and cookware into the garbage instead of rinsing it down the drain. Save up to 20 gallons. Save the strain on your drain! Instead of running that disposal into the ground, just toss your scraps into the trash. Better yet do some digging on how to compost. Many food scraps can serve the greater purpose of fertilizing your yard.
4. Program your dishwasher to skip the pre-rinse and extra-rinse cycles. Save 2-4 gallons per load. Of course we all need clean dishware, but the extra cycles aren't necessary. Scrub your dishes a little before putting them in the dishwasher, and they'll come out sparkling clean. Our community and your toned arms will thank you.
5. Wash only full loads of laundry. Save up to 50 gallons per load. You can wait to wash that super cute new sweater you just bought until you have a full load of laundry to throw in the washer. There's no need to forego wardrobe hygiene, but to maximize laundry efficiency, wait until you have a full bundle before running the washing machine. Let those forgotten favorites see the light of day and save money on both your water and electricity bills.
6. Use a hose nozzle that shuts off when you release the handle. Save up to 18 gallons per minute. Pull the trigger and get just the amount of water you need from the hose. Avoid excessive run-off and puddles with a relatively inexpensive nozzle. This simple precision tool will make watering and car washing more efficient and turn you into a weekend warrior master.
7. Water in the early morning to minimize evaporation. Save 20-25 gallons per day. When you take your morning coffee, your plants can take their morning watering. Watering in the early morning hours will help your plants beat the heat throughout the week, because less water will evaporate during cooler morning temps.
8. Turn off your irrigation 1-3 days before it's expected to rain. Turn it back on when your soil is dry. If you're not sure when your soil is dry, use a moisture meter to check. Savings vary. If rain is in the forecast, take advantage of the free sprinkle. Most plants don't need water every day to survive; many even do best when their roots get the chance to dry out a little. Check up on the specific needs of your plants and plan accordingly taking weather into account.
9. Inspect and adjust over-spraying sprinklers. Save up to 10 gallons per minute per leak. Don't water your driveway! Or your fence, side of the house, or any other inanimate objects. Make sure the water you're using gets to where it belongs. Tightening up the spray radius may be all it takes to become more efficient. Sprinklers come with varying spray patterns, so it may be best to invest in a new one with a better fit for your yard.
10. Maintain Your Mulch Savings vary. Maintaining a three-inch layer of mulch around trees and plants protects soil from direct sunlight and evaporation. It also absorbs water, reducing runoff and providing more moisture for your soil.

Fire Prevention Tips

It is never too early to implement fire prevention strategies and prepare for the disaster we hope will never come. Listed below are nine fire safety tips we might consider implementing for the sake and safety of our families and community.

1. Maintain home heating systems by having chimneys and furnaces inspected annually. Remove branches that are hanging above and around the chimney.
2. Have a fire safety and evacuation plan for your home. Install smoke alarms on every level of the home. Make sure that the entire family and guests know the evacuation plans and practice them monthly. Check the smoke alarms every month and replace the batteries at least one a year.
3. Have the phone numbers for the local emergency services posted where everyone can see them.
4. Make your home fire resistant. While it may not be practical, using fire protective roofing material like stone, brick and metal will help stop fires from spreading. Keep your roof clear of debris and branches. Install multi-pane windows to protect the windows from radiant heat.
5. Keep tools for fire protection nearby such as a 100 foot garden hose, shovel, rake, ladder, buckets and a portable fire extinguisher. Make sure that water sources, such as hydrants and ponds are accessible to the fire departments.
6. Use the landscape around your home or barn as fire defense. Keep the grass trimmed short up to 100 feet around your home. Within 30 feet of the home, keep bushes and trees thinner. Over 30 feet away, remove any dead wood, low tree branches and other debris that could be easy fuel for a fire.
7. Store flammable material, liquids and chemicals in metal containers at least 30 feet from structures and the home.
8. It is very important to follow all local burning laws and techniques. If you are doing a controlled burn, make sure to notify local authorities or obtain a burning permit.
9. Fire extinguishers are made to extinguish the FLAME. Once out, you need to break up the conditions (e.g. heat, oxygen, and the fuel source) that led to the fire (e.g. use dirt to smother the coals, break up the hay bale, etc.). Then, solve the overall problem that led to the fire (e.g. wash the combine, replace the bearing, etc.).



San Diego County Sheriff's Department

We are blessed in our region to have some of the hardest working and most professional sheriff's deputies working in our community. The San Diego County Sheriff's Department is an active participant on the Santa Ysabel Disaster Preparedness/Hazard Mitigation Committee. Our area deputies are actively working with our Santa Ysabel Tribal Police Officers and the Santa Ysabel Reservation Fire Department to identify populated areas on our reservation in case of emergency or natural disaster necessitating evacuation or assistance with sheltering in place. In case of disaster, SDSO deputies will not only be called upon to facilitate evacuations and emergency response, but will also be tasked with controlling entry into hazardous or dangerous areas during a disaster. Please cooperate and be understanding with our local law enforcement representatives as they strive to protect us and keep us from straying into harm's way.



Upcoming Training and Events

Please plan on attending our annual **Disaster Preparedness Fair**, on **Saturday, April 23rd**, which will be held from **10 am to 2 pm** in the **IHS Clinic parking lot** on the Santa Ysabel reservation, located on School House Canyon Rd. In addition to numerous informational booths from a wide variety of public safety agencies, there will be safety demonstrations, food, and all sorts of giveaways for families and youth designed to raise safety awareness and disaster preparedness. This free event has been well-attended in previous years and this year's **Fair** promises to be even more exciting and informative.